

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 19358 101833Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FBO-02 A-01 SY-05 L-03 OC-06 CCO-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1970

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FOR EUR/SOV BARRY AND GRIMES

EUR/EX FOR BASKEY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, UR, US, ABLD

SUBJECT: KIEV WEEKLY SUMMARY: STATUS OF BUILDINGS AND OTHER
ISSUES

REF: (A) MOSCOW 19057; (B) MOSCOW 19129; (C) MOSCOW 18332

1. SUMMARY: ADVANCE PARTY COMPLETED FIRST STAGE OF TECHNICAL
TALKS DEC 6. DEC 3 "PROTOCOL", SOV COMMENTS ON STRELETSKAYA PLAN,
AND US COMMENTS ON SOV'S COMMENTS FOLLOW SHORTLY BY
SEPTEL. THESE, ALONG WITH REFS A AND B, COMPRISE FULL REPORTING
ON SOV RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGES IN SUBMITTED US PLANS FOR
KIEV BLDGS. THERE IS NO MOVEMENT ON FLORENTSIYA APT. ISSUE AND
KAP PROPOSES TO SUBMIT TO UPKK OUR DRAFT LEASE WHICH DELETES
THE RESTRICTIONS ON OUR MODIFICATION OF APTS, IN AN ATTEMPT TO
MOVE THE ISSUE OFF DEAD CENTER. SOVIETS HAVE FINISHED CLEARING
DOWN TO SECOND FLOOR OF GORKIY BLDG. SIGNS AT STRELETSKAYA
INDICATE THAT SOVIETS MAY HAVE THE BUILDING CLEARED OF RESIDENTS
BY DEC 15. UKRMFA AND UPKK INDICATE THAT TELEX AND TRAVEL NOTE
ISSUES ARE BEING HANDLED AT "HIGHER LEVELS" AND THEY HAVE NO AWARE-
NESS OF WHEN OR HOW THEY WILL BE RESOLVED. NO ACTION ON
LOCAL EMPLOYEE REQUESTS TO UPKK. KAP REQUESTS INFORMATION
ON SELECTION AND ARRIVAL DATE OF GSO. END SUMMARY.

2. FLORENTSIYA. FINISHING WORK ISSUE MUST BE RESOLVED,
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 19358 101833Z

AND LEASE SIGNED, BY DECEMBER 17 IN ORDER THAT SHIPMENT

OF MATERIALS FROM LONDON TO KIEV BE COORDINATED WITH EARLY JANUARY RETURN TO MOSCOW OF EMBASSY CONTRACTORS. IF LEASE IS SIGNED AFTER THAT DATE, THE DELAY IN THE SHIPMENT OF MATERIALS MEANS THAT FINISHING WORK WILL SLIP FURTHER, AND OCCUPANCY OF APARTMENTS WILL BE FURTHER POSTPONED. THIS WILL OF COURSE ENTAIL ADDITIONAL COSTS FOR HOTEL MOSKVA ROOMS (HOTEL MOSKVA ROOMS FOR KAP COSTS USG RUBLES 75, OR DOLLARS 100.27 PER DAY; FLORENTSIYA APARTMENTS WILL COST USG RUBLES 28.66, OR DOLLARS 38.32 PER DAY), NOT TO MENTION THE BURDEN TO THE MORALE OF THE ADVANCE PARTY. SEPARATELY, WE ASSUME OF COURSE THAT EMBASSY CONTRACTORS WILL BE ISSUED VISAS IN TIMELY FASHION AND BE PERMITTED TO RETURN TO SOVIET UNION TO DO WORK. THEY CAN OBTAIN ONLY SINGLE-ENTRY VISAS, AND THEIR LAST RETURN WAS DELAYED OVER TWO WEEKS WHILE THEY WAITED FOR THEIR VISAS TO BE ISSUED. THIS, TOO, COULD CAUSE FURTHER DELAYS. PROSPECT IS THUS THAT KAP FAMILIES WILL NOT BE ABLE TO OCCUPY FLORENTSIYA APARTMENTS UNTIL FEBRUARY 1 AT THE EARLIEST, GIVEN THE LACK OF MOVEMENT.

3. BECAUSE KAP OFFICERS HAVE RECENTLY NOTED SOME LOCAL INDICATIONS THAT IF THE DRAFT LEASE (REF C - DRAFT LEASE POUCHED A/FBO, EUR/EX, UER/SOV 11/24/76) WERE GIVEN TO UPKK, THE US COULD PROCEED WITH THE APARTMENT FINISHING. IN ANY CASE, IN AN EFFORT TO MOVE THE APARTMENT SITUATION OFF DEAD CENTER, KAP PROPOSES TO OFFER DRAFT LEASE TO UPKK ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, UNLESS DEPT WISHES OTHERWISE. EMBASSY SUPPORTS INITIATIVE AS USEFUL STEP TO HELP BREAK IMPASSE.

4. GORKIY. WHITE VISITED GORKIY SITE DEC 9 AND OBSERVED THAT BUILDING CLEARED DOWN TO SECOND FLOOR. APPARENTLY NO WORK ACCOMPLISHED THIS WEEK. WE WOULD NOTE, HOWEVER, SOVIET CLAIMS IN DEC 3 "PROTOCOL" THAT DELAYS IN RESPONDING TO THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS ON GORKIY (REF A) WILL DELAY RENOVATION THERE. KAP AND EMBASSY HOPE DEPT AND KNOPP CAN RESPOND QUICKLY ON SOVIET PROPOSALS ON GORKIY (AND STELETSKAYA).

5. STRELETSKAYA. VISITS TO SITE IN PAST SEVERAL DAYS INDICATE THAT SOVIETS MAY WELL CLEAR STRELETSKAYA RESIDENTS BY DEC 15, ALTHOUGH UPKK WILL NOT EVEN INFORMALLY CONFIRM DATE. RESIDENTS AND NEIGHBORS REVEALED DEADLINE AND INDICATED THAT POSSIBLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 19358 101833Z

50 PERCENT OF TENANTS NOW MOVED. KAP VISITS SUGGEST PERCENTAGE POSSIBLY HIGHER. AT TECHNICAL TALKS, SOVIETS REPEATEDLY COMPLAINED OF DELAY IN SUBMISSION OF OFFICIAL TRANSLATIONS OF STREL. PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS.

6. LOCAL EMPLOYEES. UPKK AGAIN PROMISED ACTION ON CHAUFFEUR AND SECRETARY/TRANSLATOR REQUESTS THIS WEEK WITHOUT RESULTS, AND RENEWED PROMISES FOR NEXT WEEK.

7. TELEX. UKRMFA AND UPKK OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO INDICATE THAT TELEX ISSUE IS UNDER STUDY AND IS TO BE RESOLVED AT HIGHER LEVELS. REQUEST DEPT PROVIDE STATUS ON THIS ISSUE.

8. TRAVEL NOTES. SOVIETS CONTINUE TO INDICATE THAT THIS ISSUE IS ALSO STILL UNDER STUDY AND TO BE RESOLVED AT HIGHER LEVELS. UKRMFA ASSURES THEY ARE READY TO HANDLE KAP TRAVEL AS SOON AS GO-AHEAD GIVEN THEM. REQUEST DEPT PROVIDE STATUS ON THIS ISSUE ALSO.

9. GSO. REQUEST DEPT CONFIRM SELECTION OF KIEV PARTY GSO CANDIDATE AND INDICATE DATE ARRIVAL AT POST. AS DEPT AWARE, KAP AND EMBASSY BELIEVE ADDITIONAL OFFICER IN ADMINISTRATIVE FIELD, WITH LANGUAGE CAPABILITY, REQUIRED AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME.
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